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tire fertilizer industry. It is requested that this information be placed in the hands of the War Industries Board at the earliest possible moment.

By decree of September 12, the president of Cuba has modified the Commission of Plant Sanitation to an Office of Plant Sanitation with Mr. John R. Johnston, former president of the commission, remaining as chief of the office. The duties of this new office are the same as of the former commission, it being the sole office to issue certificates for the exportation of plants, in charge of all plant-quarantine problems, and entrusted with the eradication of the "black fly," *Aleurocanthus woglumi*, the control of the coconut budrot, the banana blight and other insect pests and plant diseases.

THE report of the Education Branch of the British Board of Agriculture and Fisheries for the year 1915-16 is summarized in *Nature*. The report is said to afford evidence that, despite the severe restrictions imposed by the war upon the development of agricultural education and research, much useful work was accomplished during the year under review. There was a great decrease in the numbers of students taking long courses of instruction, whereas the numbers taking short courses were more than maintained. The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, and the Agricultural College, Uckfield, Sussex, were closed and the grants were withdrawn from two other institutions as a measure of war economy. Research work suffered severely owing to the heavy drain upon the staffs for army or munition purposes, but much useful work on problems of immediate technical importance was accomplished, of which the investigations at Cambridge on wheat-breeding and at Rothamsted on soil and manurial problems may be singled out for special mention.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

GOVERNOR JAMES E. FERGUSON, of Texas, has been impeached by the legislature. The charges against him were financial irregularities and improper interference with the board of regents of the state university. The bill

providing for the financial support of the university for the next biennium, which was vetoed by Governor Ferguson, has been re-passed by the legislature and signed by the acting governor. The professors who were dismissed at the instigation of Governor Ferguson have been reinstated.

YALE UNIVERSITY has received since commencement gifts amounting to \$362,393.05. The largest was \$100,000 from Mrs. Edward H. Harriman for the Harriman Fund for Obstetrics in the Medical School. Another gift was that of \$50,000 from Charles F. Brooker, of Ansonia, also for the Medical School.

It is now announced that the offer of the opening of the Harvard Medical School will be withdrawn, only one woman having replied, who was regarded as a desirable student.

PROFESSOR WALTER E. CLARK, head of the department of political science in the New York City College, has been elected president of the University of Nevada.

GEORGE F. KAY, B.A., M.A. (Toronto), Ph.D. (Chicago), has been elected dean of the college of liberal arts of the University of Iowa. Dr. Kay will continue to be head of the department of geology in the university, and state geologist of Iowa.

MR. SIMON MARCOVITCH, assistant entomologist for the past three years at the University of Minnesota, has resigned his position to accept the position of head of the department of biology at the National Farm School, Bucks county, Pennsylvania.

EUGENE DEATRICK, Ph.D. (Cornell), has been appointed professor of soils at the Pennsylvania State School of Forestry, Mont Alto, Pa.

MR. HARRY B. YOCOM, who recently received his Ph.D. from the University of California, has been appointed to the professorship of zoology in Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas, to succeed the late Johnathan Risser.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE COLORS OF LETTERS

SOME twenty-five years ago or more I published in *The Popular Science Monthly*, a little paper on "The Color of Letters." In it I referred to a curious form of association of

|   | Eric Jordan, 1912 | Eric Jordan, 1917 | David Starr Jordan | Majorie Edwards | Edith Snow        |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| A | red               | red bright        | brown red          | colorless       | golden            |
| B | bluish            | gray              | green              | brown           | dark blue         |
| C | white             | white             | yellowish white    | pink            | pale yellow       |
| D | bluish            | gray              | blue               | purple          | dark green        |
| E | pale green        | yellow            | red                | colorless       | blue silver       |
| F | red brown         | brown             | pale scarlet       | scarlet         | silver            |
| G | pale brown        | yellow            | pale yellow        | dark blue       | pale brown        |
| H | green             | yellow            | brown red          | heliotrope      | pale green        |
| I | black             | black             | leaden black       | red             | silver            |
| J | dark blue         | greenish          | leaden             | dull green      | red               |
| K | brown             | brown             | lead violet        | pink            | plum color        |
| L | pale green        | green             | green              | yellow          | dark green        |
| M | red               | brown             | lead blue          | dull rose       | dark brown        |
| N | pale greenish     | light brown       | brown red          | pale green      | brick red         |
| O | light blue        | black             | white              | orange          | white             |
| P | yellow            | yellow            | lead color         | lavender        | lemon yellow      |
| Q | pale red          | red brown         | bluish white       | yellow          | drab              |
| R | dark green        | dark red          | bright green       | red             | black             |
| S | silvery gold      | silver            | bright yellow      | green           | pale red          |
| T | white             | silver            | green              | yellow          | pale bluish green |
| U | yellow            | yellow brown      | yellowish          | colorless       | drab              |
| V | silver            | white             | violet blue        | black           | blue green        |
| W | red brown         | brown             | lead blue          | white           | blue black        |
| X | silver            | silver            | scarlet            | blue            | red               |
| Y | silver            | white             | blue               | colorless       | aark yellow       |
| Z | reddish           | dark brown        | scarlet            | green           | dark red          |

color with the letters of the alphabet. This faculty has been called "Pseudo-chromæsthesia," which, I take it, means sensitiveness to false colors. It has been misunderstood by writers, who have imagined that the peculiar individuals having this trait actually see the color on the letter, which is not the fact. It is a mental association, not a false vision. Some have attributed it to a recollection of color blocks from which letters have been learned. To the "pseudochromæsthetic" this explanation is nonsense. It is, however, a fact that the tendency of this association of letters with colors is hereditary, and that it goes with a certain interest in word-using and in the use of color, features capable in each case of development.

When my son Eric was eight years old, no one ever having spoken of it to him before, I asked him what is the color of A? He responded at once that it is red. At that time, 1912, I made out a list of the alphabet with the colors assigned to each. Quite recently (1917) I repeated the question, never having mentioned the matter since. He said at once that A was red and seemed slightly surprised that any one should not see the difference in

innate color between red A and yellow E.

A few changes appeared, however, in his chromatic scale. These seem, however, to indicate vagueness of color, as the same impression might be described as bluish in one case and greenish or gray in another. For the sake of those this note may interest, I append my own chromatic scale which has not changed appreciably since I first thought of it, with those of two former students, the one my own niece, Marjorie Edwards (now Mrs. Frank Blake), and Edith Snow, daughter of the late Dr. Frank Snow, former president of the University of Kansas. DAVID STARR JORDAN

#### A SIMPLE DEMONSTRATION FOR EULER'S DYNAMICAL EQUATIONS

TEACHERS of analytic mechanics may perhaps be interested in a demonstration which I have used for the past two years and which seems to illuminate Euler's equations for the rotation of a rigid body. The experiment is so simple that it has doubtless been used before, but I do not recall ever seeing it described.

$GH$  is an ordinary support rod some 70 cm. long.  $IJ$  is a suspending cord. The ring  $I$  is set at such a point that when the rod is at rest